



# Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman  
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## Congress Set for Final Action on President's Education Bill

The House today appointed conferees on H.R. 1, President Bush's *No Child Left Behind* bill. Members of the House conference include Education & the Workforce Committee Chairman John Boehner, ranking member George Miller, as well as Reps. Petri, Roukema, McKeon, Castle, Graham, Hilleary, Isakson, Kildee, Owens, Mink, Andrews, and Roemer. The conference is expected to begin Thursday.

Congress will now work to send President Bush an education bill that reflects his principles. H.R. 1 embodies the President's vision for education in America. That vision says a number of important things:

- It says that when states use federal education dollars, they should be held accountable for getting results.
- It says that parents should be empowered with data about the schools their children attend, the qualifications of the teachers teaching their children, and their children's academic progress.
- It says federal education resources should be focused on helping students who are most in need of help.
- It says that to meet the tough new accountability standards, teachers and local school officials should have greater flexibility to decide how to address their students' unique needs.
- And it says that parents want to choose the best education possible for their children, regardless of income level or ethnic background to help schools improve student performance.

### Message of the Day

**H.R. 1 reflects President Bush's desire to ensure that federal education resources are targeted toward helping disadvantaged students.**

- ❑ *This goal is at odds with adding additional programs that, even if well-intentioned, force disadvantaged students to compete for scarce funds and complicate local efforts to tailor programs for individual students.*
- ❑ *While H.R. 1 streamlines bureaucracy, the Senate bill significantly increases the overall number of federal K-12 education programs.*
- ❑ *Disadvantaged students should be our first priority, and they should not have to compete for federal education resources with new programs.*

### DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- H.R. 1 reduces the overall number of ESEA programs from 66 to 44.
- The measure dramatically enhances flexibility for local school districts, giving them the freedom to transfer up to 50 percent of their federal education dollars **without first having to obtain permission from anyone -- including the U.S. Department of Education or the state.**
- The bill allows parents to remove their child from a low-performing school and send them to a different public school immediately after their school has been identified as failing.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"Congress has spent the last four decades appropriating massive amounts of money to try to even out the educational experiences that disadvantaged children receive compared to their more fortunate peers. And in return ... we have gotten more disappointment. Most states show continuing gaps in achievement between poor and middle-class kids, between white and minority students. Meanwhile, our students are falling behind ..."* **Chicago Tribune editorial, June 13, 2001**